

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4321

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJ: WIDENING ROK INVESTIGATIONS OF RELIGIOUS
AND STUDENT LABOR- ORIENTED GROUPS

1. IN PAST MONTH WE HAVE RECEIVED NUMBER OF REPORTS
OF WIDENING INVESTIGATIONS BY ROK INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES
INTO LABOR- ORIENTED ACTIVITIES OF STUDENTS AND RELIGIOUS
SOCIAL ACTION GROUPS. THESE INVESTIGATIONS HAVE BEEN
MARKED BY INTERROGATIONS, REPORTED BEATINGS AND ARRESTS.

2. TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE, ROK INVESTIGATIONS RELATE
MOST SPECIFICALLY TO THE KIM NAK- CHUNG CASE (SEOUL A-
182, SEOUL A-222) AND TO ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF RELIGI-
OUS SOCIAL ACTION GROUPS IN " LABOR AGITATION" AND LOW
LEVEL CLANDESTINE STUDENT ANTI- GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.
AT PRESENT, INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES ARE FOCUSING ON
ACTIVITIES OF THE ECUMENICAL URBAN INDUSTRIAL MISSION
(UIM) WHICH HAS BOTH KOREAN AND FOREIGN CLERGY IN IT.
EARLIER THIS WEEK KOREAN GENERAL SECRETARY OF THAT
ORGANIZATION, A MINISTER, TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD BEEN
PICKED UP TWICE, INTERROGATED AND BEATEN. HE HAS NOW
DISAPPEARED AND HAS EITHER BEEN ARRESTED OR GONE INTO
HIDING. THE CATHOLIC YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS GROUP ALSO
REPORTS INCREASING PRESSURE TO GET OUT OF ACTIVITIES
IN SUPPORT OF LABOR AND TO LIMIT THEMSELVES SOLELY TO
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CLEARLY RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES.

3. FURTHER, GOVERNMENT ALSO APPARENTLY BELIEVES THESE RELIGIOUS SOCIAL ACTION GROUPS MIGHT ALSO BE STIMULATING CLANDESTINE DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVIST AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT LEAFLETS BOTH ON CAMPUSES AND AMONG WORKERS. TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS ACTIVITY IS AT A VERY LOW LEVEL, BUT GOVERNMENT SUSPICIONS MAY BE CORRECT, AT LEAST IN PART. UIM MEMBERS WERE APPARENTLY INVOLVED IN DISTRIBUTING ANTI- GOVERNMENT LEAFLETS AT EASTER SUNRISE CEREMONY HELD IN SEOUL THIS YEAR.

4. IT IS CLEAR GOVERNMENT AND INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES ARE HIGHLY SENSITIVE ABOUT ANY ACTIVITIES LINKING RELIGIOUS GROUPS, STUDENTS, AND LABOR, WHATEVER THEIR INTENTIONS OR CURRENT LEVELS OF ACTIVITY. SINCE OCTOBER PRESSURES ON THE CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION GROUPS HAVE INCREASED HOWEVER, THERE SEEMS NOW A PATTERN OF SIGNIFICANTLY INTENSIFIED GOVERNMENT EFFORT TO COERCE AND CONTROL THE RELIGIOUS SOCIAL ACTION GROUPS AND TO ROOT OUT ANY STUDENT ACTIVITY IN POLITICALLY SENSITIVE AREA OF LABOR.
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